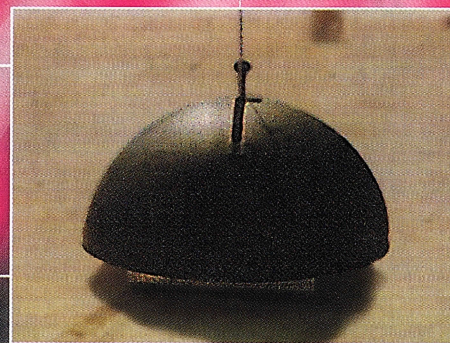


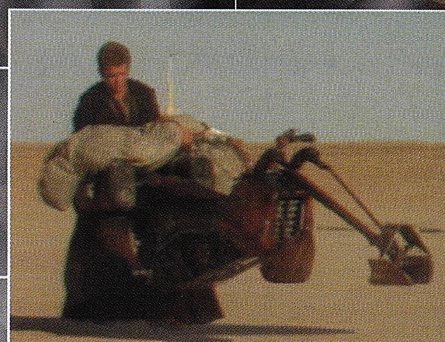
THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FACT FILE

49

INSIDE:
CLAWDITES



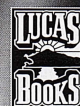
MINE-LAYING DROIDS
LIN DEMOLITIONMECH



DETAILED FOLD-OUT PLANS
OWEN LARS' SPEEDER



DEAGOSTINI



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THE SEARCH FOR AMIDALA'S ASSASSIN

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The speeder that Anakin borrowed to go in search of his mother, Shmi.

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THE MAX REBO BAND

How Max Rebo and his band entered the employ of Jabba the Hutt.

ENDOR - EWOK VILLAGE

The Ewok homestead where the Rebels took refuge during the battle of Endor.

SSI-RUUVI SECURITY DROID

The alien droids powered by the life energy of enslaved victims.

JABBA THE HUTT'S SAIL BARGE

The Hutt crime lord's personal pleasure craft - the *Khetannā*.

BLASTING ITS WAY INTO ISSUE 50...

BUILDING THE BATTLE DROID ARMY

How Darth Sidious engineered the creation of a ruthless army.

IMPERIAL SOLDIERS

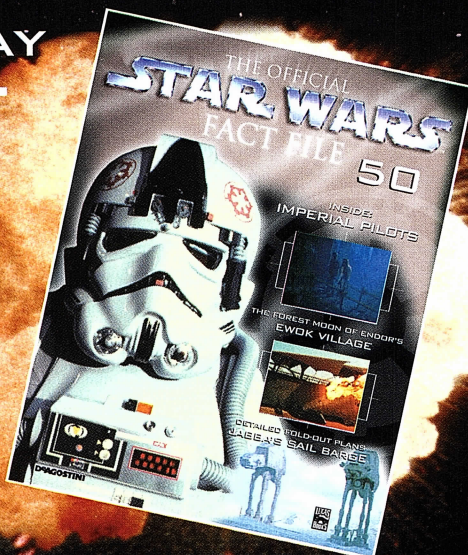
The Imperial AT-AT and AT-ST walker pilots.

TALON KARRDE

A smuggler who became an underworld boss.

BOUNTY HUNTERS - ZUCKUSS

The Gand findsman who became one of the galaxy's most successful bounty hunters.





"TRACK DOWN THIS BOUNTY HUNTER, YOU MUST, OBI-WAN"

22 BBY ASS5

DEATH OF AN ASSASSIN

OBI-WAN AND ANAKIN PURSUED AMIDALA'S WOULD-BE ASSASSIN TO A CLUB IN ONE OF CORUSCANT'S LEISURE DISTRICTS

A NAKIN was surprised when Obi-Wan ordered him to search the Outlander Club for Amidala's attacker while Kenobi himself went to the bar for a drink. Obi-Wan's plan was, however, very successful.

Zam Wesell, seeing Obi-Wan at the bar, approached slowly. His back was to her, but Zam knew it was better to be certain with a Jedi. She moved close to make sure her shot found its target. However, Obi-Wan sensed the assassin's intentions. In an instant he had drawn his lightsabre, spun around and disarmed Wesell – from the elbow down. The two Jedi then carried her into an adjacent alley to interrogate her.



A EASY TARGET: Although Zam Wesell knew Jedi were tricky opponents, she did not know that Obi-Wan was completely aware of her approach. His tactic all along had been to lure her into the open. He timed his move perfectly, severing Wesell's arm. It was a manoeuvre Obi-Wan would repeat many years later in a cantina on Tatooine.



A OFFICIAL BUSINESS: Zam Wesell was stunned by the sudden reversal of fortunes. Staggering back against the wall, she realized that the fight was over and she was beaten.

◀ A BOUNTY HUNTER CALLED....: Just as Wesell was about to name the bounty hunter who had hired her, a poison dart struck her in the neck, killing her instantly.

If Obi-Wan and Anakin had hoped to get any information from the Clawdite assassin, they were disappointed. A toxic dart, fired by a mysterious figure who rocketed into the night, silenced Zam forever.





ASS6 22 BBY

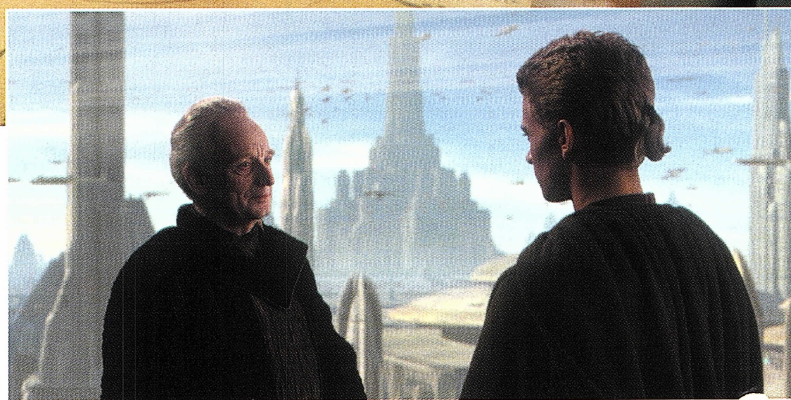


YESCORT THE SENATOR BACK TO HER HOME PLANET: For once, Anakin was overjoyed at the ruling of the Jedi Council, who instructed him to guide Amidala to Naboo. His feelings for her were already powerful.

THE HUNT CONTINUES

The Jedi Council, on hearing the full report, made a decision that found much favour with Anakin. He was to go with Senator Amidala to her home planet, Naboo – a far safer place than Coruscant. The Council told Anakin to approach Supreme Chancellor Palpatine for assistance in convincing Padmé to leave. Obi-Wan, meanwhile, would begin an investigation into the identities of those who wanted Padmé dead.

Reluctantly, and worried that Anakin was not ready for the Council's assignment, Obi-Wan saw Padmé, Anakin and R2-D2 off. Disguised as refugees, the unlikely group was to travel on board a battered old freighter to better safeguard their real identities. As he watched the young couple and the droid walk to the freighter, Obi-Wan confided his fears to Padmé's head of security, Captain Typho. Typho pointed out that he was more concerned that Padmé might try something



A YOU WILL BE INVINCIBLE: Anakin enjoyed his talks with Chancellor Palpatine. Sometimes, the statesman from Naboo seemed to be the only person who recognized his true potential.

risky than he was worried about Anakin.

Obi-Wan Kenobi was not comforted by this. However, he had his own orders to carry out. Initially, the analysis consoles and droids in the Jedi Temple were unable to help him in determining the source of the dart. Frustrated, Obi-Wan turned to an old friend for help.



<I AM CONCERNED FOR MY PADAWAN: Obi-Wan was far from comfortable at the thought of his Padawan being granted a solo mission. He saw that Anakin's arrogance could cause trouble and perhaps endanger the life of Senator Amidala.

'ARE YOU ALLOWED TO LOVE? I THOUGHT IT WAS FORBIDDEN FOR A JEDI'

22 BBY ASS7



JEDI DREAMS

WHILE OBI-WAN WAS CONTINUING HIS INVESTIGATIONS, ANAKIN AND PADMÉ WERE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AGAIN



BEFORE they had left Coruscant, Anakin and Padmé had clashed over the need for the Senator to go to Naboo. Amidala was frustrated that she would miss the vital vote on the Military Creation Act, despite all her work to oppose it. Anakin's own frustration at the way he perceived Obi-Wan was treating him also bubbled to the surface.

During the long and uneventful journey to Naboo, however, the Jedi Padawan and the galactic Senator were able to put their professional personas to one side. For the first time, Padmé and Anakin talked together with nothing in the way. It was on this journey that the young couple truly began to gain the measure of each other, and by the time they reached Naboo, the seeds of something deeper than friendship had been sown.

AT THE REPUBLIC NEEDS

YOU: Anakin firmly believed in the good that Padmé was doing as a Senator, and dismissed her doubts about her career.

> I FEAR THE SENATE

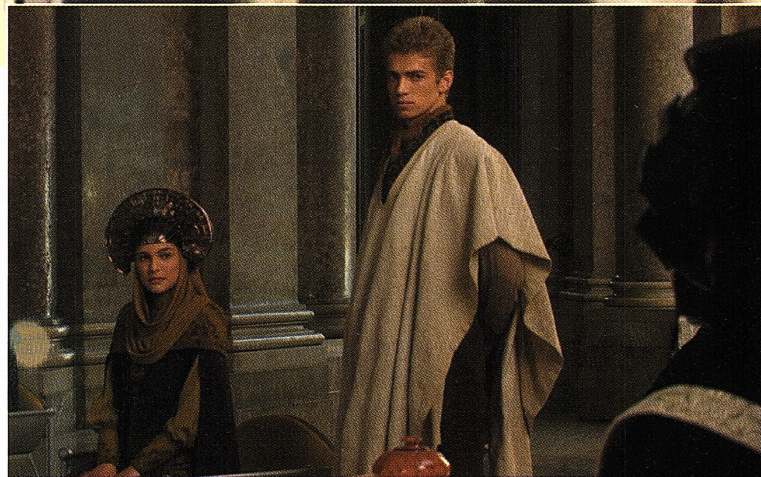
IS POWERLESS: Queen Jamillia's advisers were realistic about the state of the Republic. The separatist crisis deepened as more and more systems seceded.

BEHIND THE MASK

Padmé had discovered that Anakin suffered nightmares, and that they always concerned his mother. The young man talked about it only briefly, but it gave Padmé a glimpse of a vulnerability beneath Anakin's arrogance that she

warmed to quickly. This was the boy she remembered from Tatooine.

On arrival on Naboo, Padmé and Anakin slipped back into their roles, becoming Senator and Jedi protector once again. However, something had changed between them forever.





Y > I AM IN CHARGE OF SECURITY: Anakin revealed both his lack of experience and his feelings for Padmé when he tried to contradict her in front of Queen Jamillia and her senior adviser, Sio Bibble. Padmé used her diplomatic skills to soothe him.



PETULANT PADAWAN

Anakin had talked a lot about the Jedi Order and about his training at the Temple. He had told Padmé his thoughts, opinions and frustrations. When they arrived on Naboo, the conversation had turned to Padmé, and her time as Queen of Naboo. The talk then switched to politics and to duty. If there were inklings that Anakin and Padmé had different opinions on the subject, they never fully emerged.

During a meeting with Queen Jamillia at the Royal Palace, Anakin managed to embarrass himself, rushing into a conversation rather than listening to what was being said. He had grown a little irritated when Padmé had begun to dictate her own security arrangements, and interrupted her with a petulant reminder that he was the one in charge on that subject. Padmé forgave him the outburst – she was used to worse from Senators with far more experience – and could understand Anakin's feelings. She calmly reminded him that he should make use of her extensive local knowledge to help him with his security measures. Anakin was already regretting his blunder, which had revealed something of the feelings he had for Padmé to the others present.

MEETING THE FAMILY

Before they left for the anonymity and security of the Naboo countryside, Padmé visited her parents, sister and nieces at her parents' home in a Theed residential area. Anakin coped well with the intensity of the Naberrie family reunion, and the good-natured questioning he and Padmé were subjected to. Anakin was more honest in his assessment of the danger Padmé was in than she would have liked, but his frankness was appreciated.

Padmé's family quickly picked up on the feelings Anakin had for her. Padmé's own insistence that the relationship was strictly professional failed to wash with her sister, Sola. As Padmé packed for the lakeside retreat, Anakin spotted two pictures of her. One was of her as a smiling child, working for the refugee relief movement, and another was of her as a stern Apprentice Legislator, just starting her political career. The images summed up the two sides of the young woman Anakin knew he truly loved. But how did Padmé feel about him?



'TRULY WONDERFUL, THE MIND OF A CHILD IS'

22 BBY ASS9



OBI-WAN'S INVESTIGATION

ON CORUSCANT, OBI-WAN HAD GONE TO THE COLOURFUL
COCO TOWN TO VISIT AN OLD FRIEND

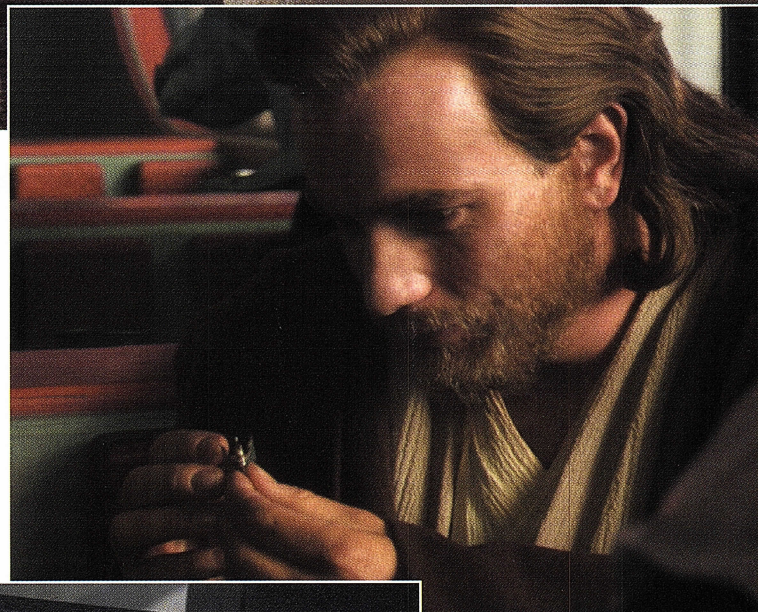


DEX'S DINER was owned by Dexter Jettster – an unusual character to say the least. Obi-Wan went to Dex for information that more legitimate sources simply couldn't supply. Leaving his kitchen, the hulking, four-armed Dexter warmly embraced his friend, and was happy to look at the toxic dart that Obi-Wan had brought with him. Dexter identified it as a sabredart made by the Kamino cloners. Dex gave Obi-Wan the supposed location of the Kamino system.

Back at the Temple, Obi-Wan found that the system simply didn't appear in

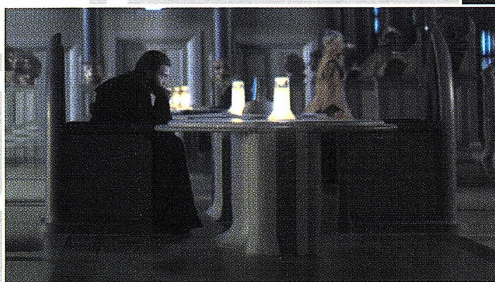
A > HEY 'OL BUDDY:

Obi-Wan's efforts to trace Zam Wesell's killer led him to a diner in a run-down district of Coruscant. The proprietor, Dexter Jettster, had a colourful and interesting past and was an old friend of the Jedi. When Kenobi showed Dexter the toxic dart that had killed Wesell, the Besalisk immediately recognized it as originating from Kamino.



< ARE YOU SURE IT EXISTS?:

When Obi-Wan returned to the Jedi Archives to confirm the location of the Kamino system, he found no record of it. Despite Madame Jocasta Nu's assurances that the Archives were absolutely secure and completely comprehensive, Obi-Wan suspected foul play.



ASS 10 22 BBY

YI AM SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MASTER:

Perplexed by the lack of information in the Jedi Archives and even more so by the strange gravitational pulls that were evident where the planet Kamino should have been, Obi-Wan went to the Jedi Temple to seek the advice of Master Yoda.

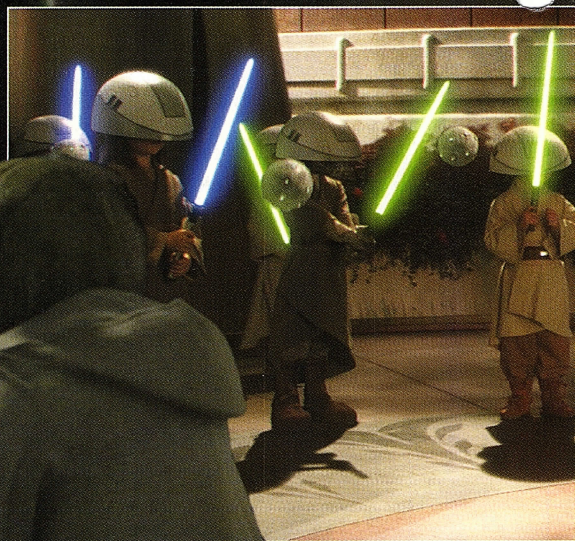
any of the many records. The elderly librarian, Jocasta Nu, informed Kenobi that the system therefore didn't exist. Unwilling to accept this in the face of Dexter's information, and realizing that there were certain gravitational anomalies where Kamino should be, Obi-Wan went to Yoda for help.

THE SEARCH GOES ON

With the assistance of the Jedi Master and several Padawan children, Obi-Wan determined to go to the source of the gravitational irregularities in the Kamino system. Yoda told him he would find his answer there – and perhaps even his 'missing' planet – but that the answer might well prove the unthinkable.

If Kamino was indeed where the Jedi suspected, it seemed that someone had tampered with the Temple Archives, and – since no non-Jedi had access to the Archives – that someone could only be a Jedi Knight.

AY THIS IS WHERE IT OUGHT TO BE: With the help of Yoda and a group of Jedi children – the Bear Clan – Obi-Wan decided that Kaminoan had somehow been erased from the Jedi Archives. He determined to travel to its supposed location to see for himself what was there and what wasn't.



'YOU KNOW, A GENTLEMAN WOULD TURN HIS BACK WHILE A LADY CHANGES'

22 BBY CLA 1



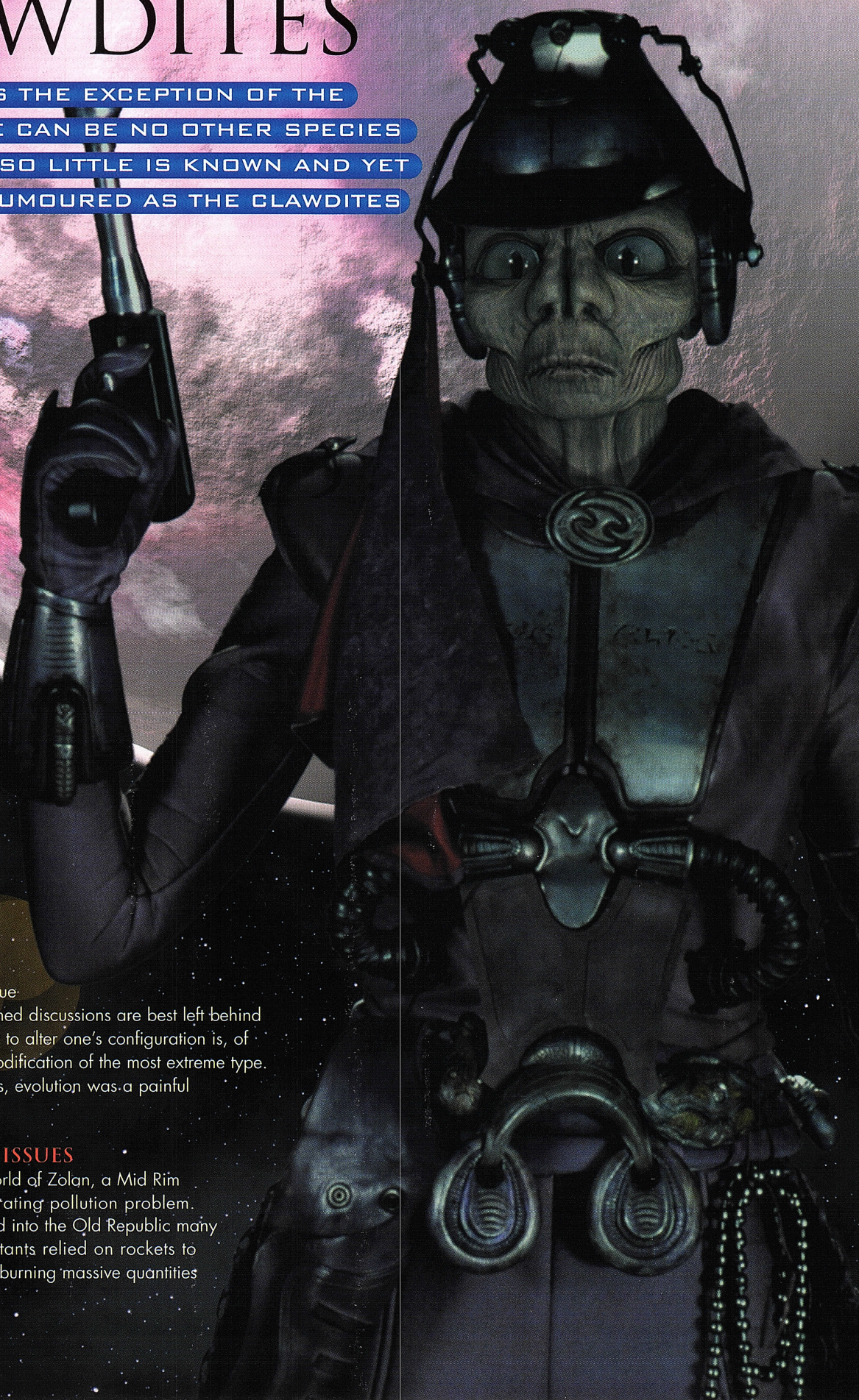
CLAWDITES

WITH PERHAPS THE EXCEPTION OF THE ANZATI, THERE CAN BE NO OTHER SPECIES ABOUT WHOM SO LITTLE IS KNOWN AND YET SO MUCH IS RUMOURED AS THE CLAWDITES

IN a galaxy of innumerable species, there are only 11 that are officially recognized as shape-shifters, or changelings. A true changeling is a being that can consciously alter its physical configuration. Many argue a being that can simply manipulate its skin colour or texture is not a true changeling, but those learned discussions are best left behind for the moment. The ability to alter one's configuration is, of course, an evolutionary modification of the most extreme type. However, for the Clawdites, evolution was a painful overnight experience.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Clawdites hail from the world of Zolan, a Mid Rim planet with a rather frustrating pollution problem. Before Zolan was accepted into the Old Republic many centuries ago, the inhabitants relied on rockets to reach space and beyond, burning massive quantities



of polluting chemicals on the way. The reason why they had never developed repulsorlift technology was quickly discovered by the first offworlders to have attempted landing on Zolan with a more technologically advanced system.

The unique polarity of Zolan's magnetic fields utterly neutralizes repulsorlift engines. So, to enjoy the benefits of trade with the Republic, the Zolanders built massive space stations beyond the unfortunate magnetic interference. Despite this, offworld goods remain expensive on Zolan, and the planet has few exports. The pollution has led to Zolan becoming a benighted world locked in permanent twilight.

IN THE FACE OF THE TRUTH

On Zolan, the religiously devout society warned against those who did not 'show their true face'. This handily open expression was wilfully interpreted, however well meaning it may have originally been, to allow the oppression of freethinking individuals. Branded dangerous deceivers, the Zolander 'sinners' would find themselves reduced to the

status of third-class citizens with few rights. Forced to live in ghettos, they led miserable lives.

Zolan society, so dominated by religion, valued honour and chivalry. As with similar social systems throughout the galaxy, an order of knight-protectors of the religious rulers came into being – the Mabari. This ancient order taught the fighting arts to their initiates, and adapted through the centuries to incorporate modern technology and weapons in the service of those they protected.

Some 2,000 years ago, a sizeable meteorite hit Zolan. After the devastation of the strike itself, the people of Zolan found the meteorite had brought a deadly gift. A terrible disease swept the planet. It affected the skin, breaking it down at a sub-cellular level. The skin that grew back reacted horrifically to ultra-violet light, cracking and oozing painfully, and failed to respond to treatment.

As the people of Zolan panicked, their religious leaders called for radical steps to be taken. The consequences of their scientists' actions would impact on the course of Zolan history with more force than any mere meteorite.

PLANET INFORMATION

PLANET:	ZOLAN
SPECIES:	ZOLANDER CLAWDITE
LANGUAGE:	BASIC
ATMOSPHERE:	OXYGEN MIX
POINTS OF INTEREST:	UNIQUE MAGNETIC FIELD POLARITY PERMANENT TWILIGHT CAUSED BY HIGH LEVELS OF POLLUTION
AFFINITY:	NONE

AIT WAS JUST A JOB: The vast majority of Clawdites can do little more than alter the colour and texture of their skin. This is a painful operation in itself and takes a lot of concentration to maintain. A very few Clawdites, including the bounty hunter Zam Wesell, who attempted to kill Padmé Amidala, have achieved a higher degree of physical manipulation, though the pain involved must be almost unbearable and the concentration required quite astonishing.

'YOU KNOW, JANDO, YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT MY SHAPE-CHANGING'

LEGACY OF THE METEORITE

THE PAINFUL AND DISFIGURING DISEASE THAT AFFECTED THE PEOPLE OF ZOLAN THREW THE PLANET INTO A PANIC

As disease spread across Zolan, its thousands of sufferers were isolated, effectively exiled to an unpopulated continent called Sultur. There, scientists experimented with a new gene therapy in an effort to cure the disease and save the victims. They achieved this aim, but at the same time created a new species – the Clawdites.

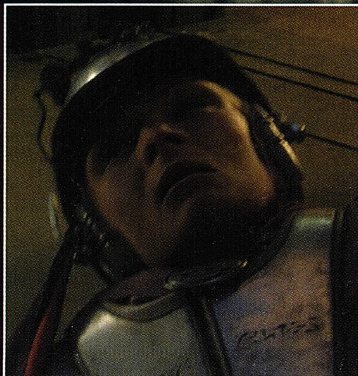
Zolan has a number of species among its fauna that exhibit shape-changing abilities to varying degrees – from simple colour-changing to limited physical shape-mimicry. Many Zolander scientists subscribed to the theory that their people had the same genes, only dormant. The radical gene-therapy given to the sufferers of the meteorite disease reawakened those genes to startling effect.

SKIN CHANGES

Initially, recovering patients were shocked to discover their re-growing skin could change colour very quickly. They differed in no other way physically from untreated Zolanders. The skin colours could be controlled with a degree of applied will-power, though this was a little uncomfortable. More uncomfortable still was the modification of the texture of the skin.

Further pain came when the treated Zolanders tried to re-enter their society. Pity had turned to suspicion. These altered people could no longer be trusted to show their true face. Outcasts, third-class citizens, the skin-

< Y SHAPE-SHIFTER: The bounty hunter Zam Wesell was one of a small group of Clawdites who were most adept at shape-shifting. Her ability to achieve and maintain humanoid form during her attempt on Padmé Amidala's life would have been impossible for an ordinary Clawdite. Despite rumours to the contrary, even the most adept Clawdite shape-shifters cannot alter their mass. It is also known that Clawdites are not as physically strong as the Zolanders from whom they were forcibly evolved.





changers, as they had become known, were to remain isolated on their world for many centuries. As their abilities developed, the exiles of Sultur produced their own dialect, then their own distinct language and society. Eventually, their separation was complete when they named themselves Clawdites.

A WORLD DIVIDED

The Clawdite people were never to achieve peaceful integration with the Zolanders – many centuries of religious indoctrination were too hard to overcome. Their leaders, if the semi-anarchic Clawdite society could be said to have any, were accomplished warriors called ‘vaporers’. Those leaders approached the separatist movement before the Clone Wars interrupted plans for a potential revolution of Zolan. The Empire simply blockaded the planet.

New Republic diplomats tried to negotiate a settlement between the Zolander and Clawdite. Religious fanatics on the Zolander side killed the chief negotiator. Vaporers took advantage of the chaos to launch a series of independent assaults on the Zolanders. Now, the Clawdite warrior Renneyn is the de-facto ruler of a world where the shape-shifters control three-quarters of the planet.

Since the Yuuzhan Vong invasion, the Clawdite people have been contacted by New Republic Intelligence. This led to the creation of the Guile Company, though its success against the Yuuzhan Vong invaders has been as limited as any of the other operations against the extragalactic aggressors.

> THE OUTSIDER: An outcast on her home planet of Zolan, Zam Wesell's only recourse was to seek her fortune as a bounty hunter elsewhere in the galaxy.



'JABBA, YOU ARE TRULY THE KING OF NEGOTIATORS!'

5 BBY JAB5

MASTER TRADER

EVEN AFTER HE MADE HIS BASE IN THE PALACE ON TATOOINE, JABBA TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY, CARRYING OUT EVER MORE COMPLEX DEALS AND SCAMS

SOME of Jabba's schemes required a lot of pre-planning and were positively labyrinthine in their execution. His dealings with the crime boss Gaar Suppoon provide a good example. Visiting the alien's planet with his entourage to conduct some nefarious business, Jabba indulged Suppoon's desire to hold a jubjub, or formal trade ritual – even though he had previously warned the alien that he planned to plant a bomb on the premises to ensure that Suppoon did not double-cross him.

Suppoon, however, was unworried because he had secured the services of

Kosh Kurp, one of the Empire's top security experts, who had scoured the palace and found no trace of a bomb. Planning first to call Jabba's bluff, and then to take his life, Suppoon began the business at hand.

Jabba and Suppoon presented each other with their wares. The deadly tromonid that Jabba wanted was a female, replete with poison sacs that were almost overflowing. Jabba salivated at the

< DO YOU KNOW KOSH KURP? Jabba's plan to cover himself in his dealings with Gaar Suppoon by planting a bomb in the alien's palace were apparently scuppered by Suppoon's employment of security expert Kosh Kurp.



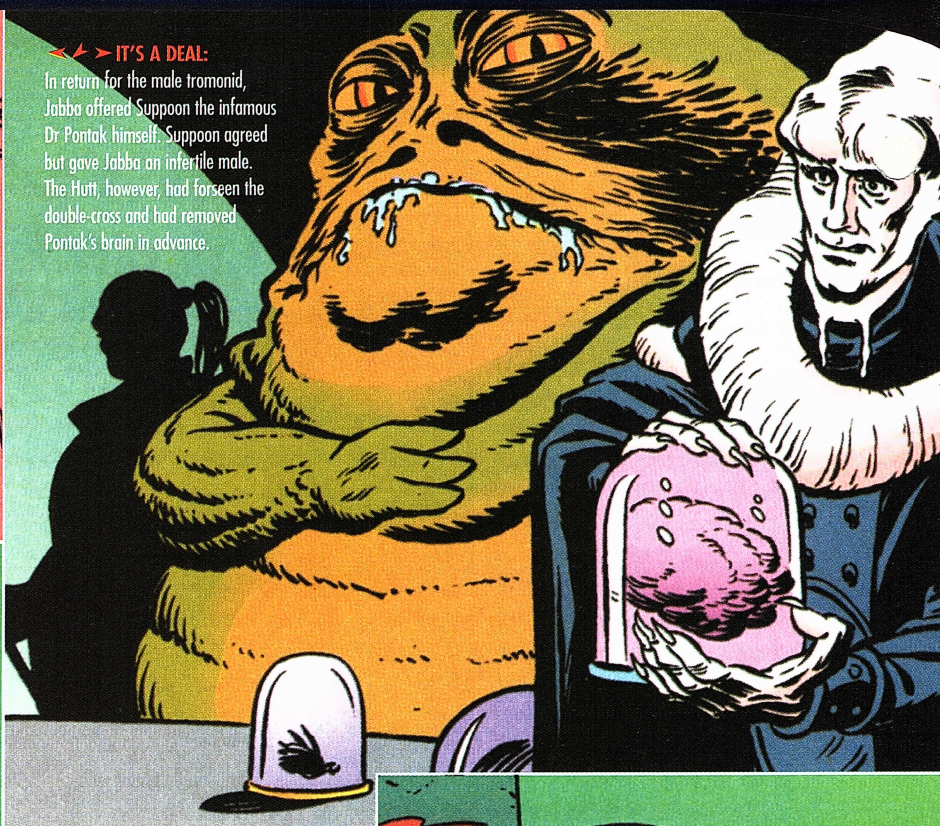
< I WANT A MALE TROMONID: Jabba's business with Gaar Suppoon was highly illegal. Ostensibly, Jabba wanted to trade a biologically engineered hyperland for a female tromonid. What the Hutt really wanted, though, was a male tromonid so that he could also breed the creatures and harvest vast quantities of the deadly poison they produced.





▶▶▶ IT'S A DEAL:

In return for the male tromonid, Jabba offered Suppoon the infamous Dr Pontak himself. Suppoon agreed but gave Jabba an infertile male. The Hutt, however, had forseen the double-cross and had removed Pontak's brain in advance.



thought of the credits he could get for just a few drops of that precious poison.

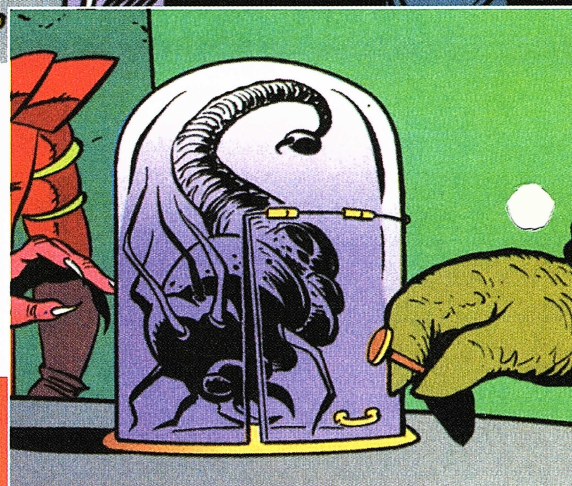
A DEADLY DEAL

Jabba offered in exchange a biologically engineered hypergland taken from the laboratories of the infamous Dr Pontak. The gland was ideal for Suppoon's purposes, but the alien wanted more – Dr Pontak himself. Jabba had anticipated this, and had bought Pontak along. Reassuring Suppoon that the drooling doctor was merely heavily drugged, Jabba requested a male tromonid in exchange. Suppoon agreed to provide this, although the illegality of the transaction put a price on his head – or, as Jabba reminded him, merely *another* price.

The deal, it seemed, was done. Then Jabba noticed a radiation burn on the male tromonid, indicating that it had been irradiated to make it infertile. Jabba protested, but Suppoon pointed out that the Hutt hadn't specified a fertile male. Suppoon's self-satisfied expression didn't last long – just until Jabba offered him an accessory to go with Dr Pontak – the doctor's brain!

Suppoon reacted by immediately

threatening Jabba's life. Yet even with a blaster at his head, Jabba kept cool and merely flipped open the hatch on the female tromonid's cage. The deadly creature wrapped itself round Suppoon's wrist and stung him deeply.



◀◀◀ A BITE LIKE THAT IS FATAL: Unwilling to accept defeat, Suppoon threatened to kill Jabba unless he handed over Dr Pontak's brain and gave back the tromonid. Undaunted, the Hutt handed over the female tromonid, but not before opening its cage so that the creature immediately stung Suppoon.



'I THINK THAT MUST ABOUT EXHAUST YOUR BAG OF TRICKS, HUTT'

5 ABY JAB7



BLUFF AND DOUBLE BLUFF

JABBA'S DEALINGS WITH GAAR SUPPOON WERE HIGHLY ILLEGAL.

THE HUTT KNEW THAT UNLESS HE WAS WELL PREPARED HE

WOULD BE LUCKY TO ESCAPE SUPPOON'S HOME WITH HIS LIFE

FORTUNATELY for Suppoon, Jabba had brought with him a dose of tromonid antidote, which he now offered to trade. All he wanted was Pontak's brain, the tromonids, the hyperglad – and ten korgs of spice for his trouble. Suppoon threatened to blow Jabba's head off, but by this time Jabba had his hand wrapped around a grenade that he claimed would detonate if he lost his grip on it. Reluctantly, Suppoon agreed to the terms. Then, at the last minute, he demanded that Kosh Kurp examine the grenade. The security expert did this by hugging it to himself and allowing it to explode.

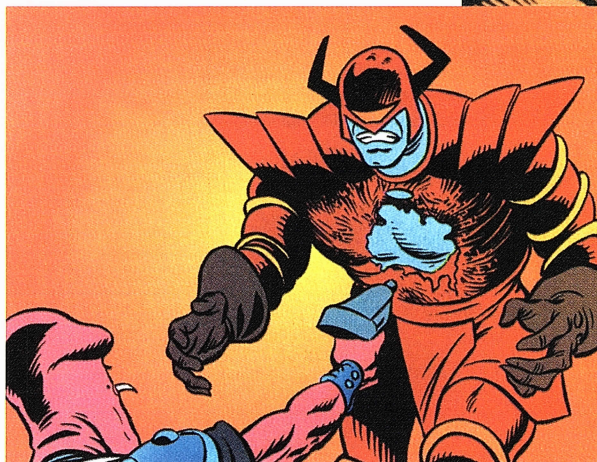
Suppoon then took Jabba prisoner, taunting him that the bomb he said he had planted had gone off to no great effect. But Jabba had yet another trick to play. Calling Suppoon by an old alias – Sonopur Bomoor – he warned the alien that the bomb had not yet been detonated.

Y > THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: Outmanoeuvred by Jabba, Suppoon threatened to kill the Hutt, but Jabba was not to be so easily defeated. He pointed out to Suppoon that the grenade he now held in his hand would kill them all if he were to allow it to detonate.





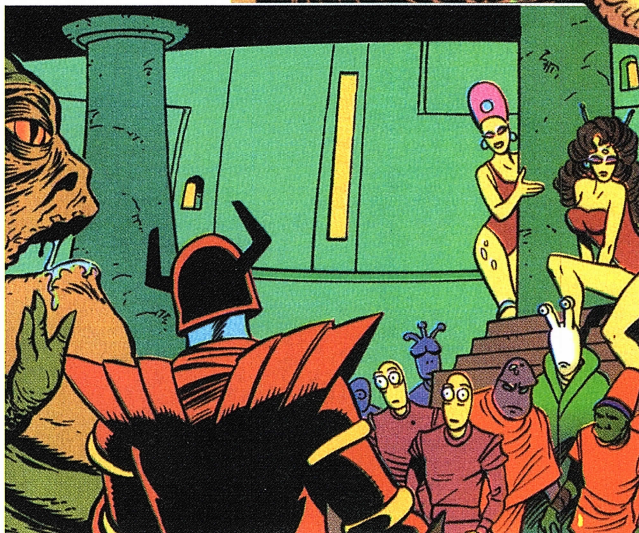
YOUR PRESENCE IS OBNOXIOUS TO ME: When Kosh Kurp discovered that Suppoon had, years previously, murdered his family, he attacked the crime boss. Suppoon shot Kurp but the bolt deflected, leaving the crime boss lying dead on the floor.



Hearing the name Sonopur Bomoor, Kosh Kurp reacted immediately and began interrogating Suppoon. It became apparent that the military commander Sonopur Bomoor had years previously led an invasion of Kosh Kurp's home planet and tortured his family to death. Kurp had been forced to witness the terrible atrocity and had been searching for Sonopur Bomoor all his life, desperate to take his revenge.

Suppoon admitted to the killings and attempted to justify them, but Kosh Kurp, having none of it, attacked him. Jabba watched as Suppoon shot Kurp – but the bolt was deflected off the security expert's alien flesh, and it was Suppoon, not Kurp, who fell dead.

Kosh Kurp was saddened that his lifelong enemy had died so easily, but Jabba promised him compensation. The security expert rounded on the Hutt, telling him it was none of his business. He was wrong. Jabba had engineered the whole thing – he had let Suppoon know that he had planted a bomb in



◀ THAT WAS A TOY: Unfortunately for Jabba, Kosh Kurp grabbed hold of his grenade and detonated it safely close to his own body. This act seemed to leave Jabba with no cards left to play. However, as it turned out, the Hutt crime lord was well prepared for any eventuality.

advance, purely so that Suppoon would employ Kosh Kurp to seek it out. Then he revealed Suppoon's old alias just at the right moment to turn Kosh Kurp against him. In fact, Kosh Kurp had himself been the bomb that Jabba had repeatedly spoken of. Magnanimous in victory, Jabba then handed Suppoon's crime syndicate over to Kosh Kurp.

◀ BEHOLD YOUR NEW MASTER: Having won the battle of wits with Gaar Suppoon, Jabba was happy to hand the deceased crime boss's empire over to Kosh Kurp.

'THE DROIDS ARE PUTTING THE DEFENCES IN PLACE, SIR'

27 ABY LIN 1



LIN DEMOLITIONMECH

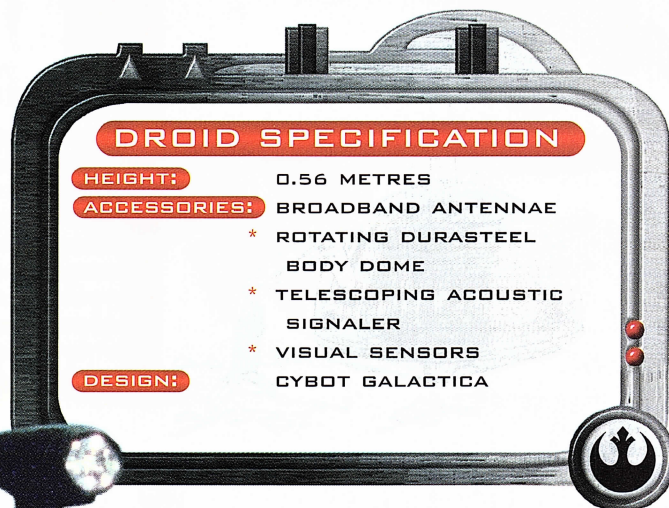
CYBOT GALACTICA WAS ABLE TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF ITS WED
TREADWELL DROID WITH THE CONTROVERSIAL LIN DEMOLITIONMECH

THE LIN demolitionmech was designed for the laying of explosives for industrial and commercial purposes. The military soon realized that the droid, intended to go where sentients would rather not, would make a perfect – and expendable – military mine-layer.

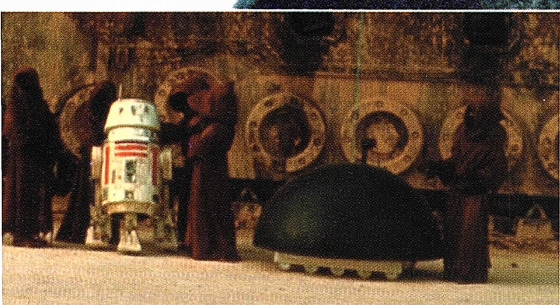
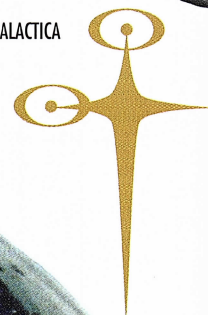
Numerous LIN demolitionmechs were adapted by the military and put to use on battlefields, planting pressure bombs or anti-repulsorlift vehicle grenades to provide a deadly surprise for any enemy who dared a ground assault.

The product of that vast manufacturing behemoth, Cybot Galactica (CG), the droid's performance earned it relatively positive initial feedback. However, there were a couple of teething problems. In particular, the droid was prone to break down in unusually damp conditions. Technicians at CG were working around the clock to fix this defect when a report was broadcast on the newsnets, announcing that 600 miners on Gosfambling had been killed after a malfunctioning demolitionmech caused a mine to explode prematurely.

The miners died when a detonite charge went off in the claws of a LIN demolitionmech. The cave-in following the explosion caused their suffocation, and the hapless droid was blamed.



CYBOT GALACTICA



A > MILITARY MANOEUVRES: Designed for the laying of explosives in industrial and commercial projects such as demolition and mining, the LIN demolitionmech was soon adapted by the military for use in battle situations.





< A I'LL TAKE THIS ONE

After a LIN demolitionmech caused the death of 600 miners on Gosfambling, Cybot Galactica recalled the entire line. Many of the droids, however, remained with their owners, and examples of the LIN demolitionmech often turn up at droid sales such as those held by the Jawas on Tatooine.



the demolitionmech were covered with a heavy black dome. The weight was, unfortunately, so great that it impaired the five-speed drive. The sluggishness of the LIN, the designers felt, was an acceptable trade off for the fact that it was protected by an almost impenetrable shell.

The only break in the shell was a slot for the egress and ingress of the manipulator arm. The arm, jointed in two locations, was designed to pick specially designed timer mines from an internal rack

Concerned that the accident might damage their image, executives at CG gave up on the droid altogether, ordering a halt to production and the recall of existing units.

Most LIN demolitionmech owners believed the company had over-reacted to the accident and decided to keep their droids. The Lin demolitionmech thus remained a familiar sight in military bases, ore quarries and at droid auctions for years.

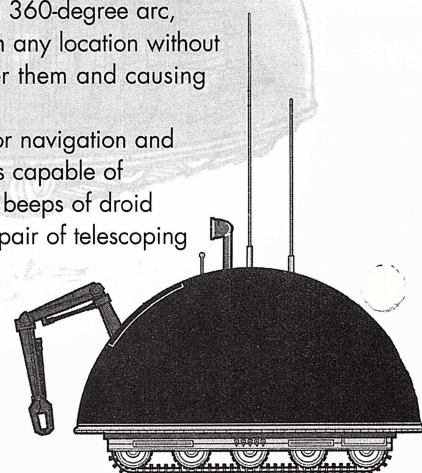
IMPENETRABLE ARMOUR

The body of the LIN demolitionmech was built around parts from the multi-armed treadwell droid. Like the treadwell, the demolitionmech was fitted with twin tank treads, both controlled by a set of five small wheels. The inner workings of

which spun, feeding the next mine. The mines would then be carefully placed in the area designated for blasting.

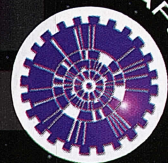
The dome itself could rotate in a 360-degree arc, allowing the droid to plant mines in any location without danger of accidentally rolling over them and causing an untimely explosion.

Equipped with a visual sensor for navigation and an acoustic signaller, the droid was capable of communication in the squeaks and beeps of droid language. It was also fitted with a pair of telescoping broadband antennae, allowing the demolitionmech to send and receive information through kilometres of rock.



THE THREAT IS ABSOLUTE

10 ABY GAL 1



THE GALAXY GUN

THE GALAXY GUN, EMPEROR PALPATINE'S LAST ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION, WIPED OUT SEVERAL PLANETS, INCLUDING HIS THRONEWORLD OF BYSS

THE Emperor was only satisfied when the threat of his displeasure carried a fear great enough to subjugate whole star systems. To destroy a starship or a continent was not enough – he desired the ability to obliterate entire worlds. To this end, he ordered the construction of superweapons such as the Death Stars, the Sun Crusher, and finally, the cannon to end all cannons – the Galaxy Gun.

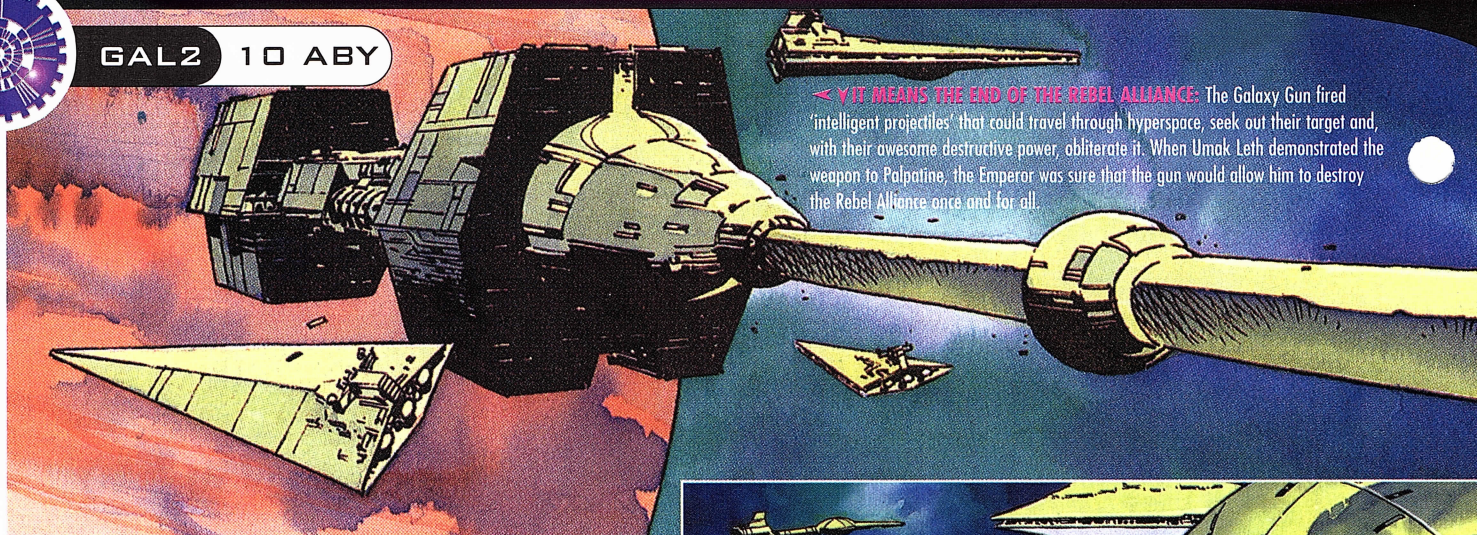
Although he had apparently been killed during the Battle of Endor, Palpatine's dark essence survived and was later able to possess the body of a clone. Rising to reclaim the Empire he had lost to the Rebel Alliance,

IMPERIAL POWER: The Galaxy Gun was the last in a long line of superweapons developed by Emperor Palpatine in his quest for galactic domination. Capable of destroying entire worlds from immense distances, the gun threatened to restore the rule of the Empire to the galaxy.

the reborn Palpatine took the Imperial throneworld of Byss as his headquarters. To begin his return to power, the Emperor used the talents of Umak Leth, one of his greatest engineers, to craft a series of weapons. Leth's designs included the World Devastators, the SD-9 and SD-10 battle droids, and the shadow droid attack fighters. But it was the Galaxy Gun that earned him his position as Palpatine's chief weapon-maker.

CHIEF ENGINEER: The Galaxy Gun's designer was Umak Leth, one of Palpatine's most talented engineers, who had also been responsible for the design of the World Devastators and the SD-9 and SD-10 battle droids.



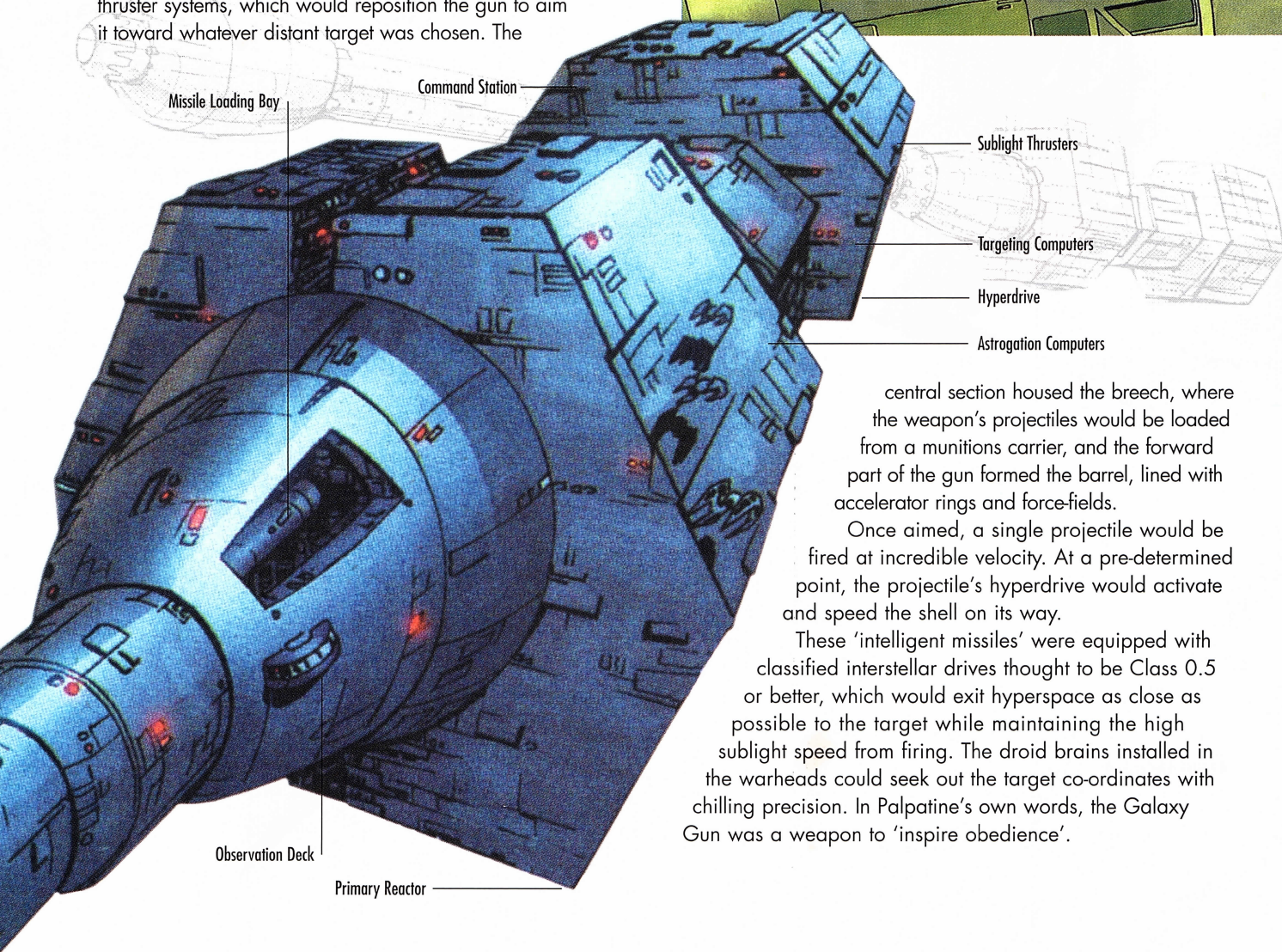
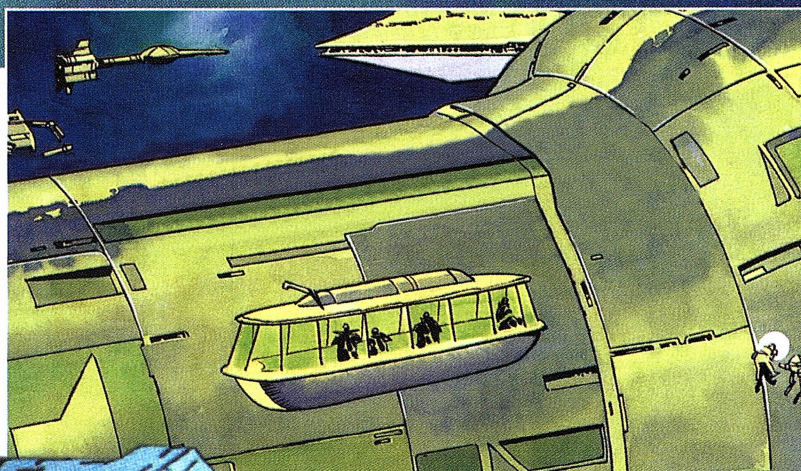


< **YIT MEANS THE END OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE:** The Galaxy Gun fired 'intelligent projectiles' that could travel through hyperspace, seek out their target and, with their awesome destructive power, obliterate it. When Umak Leth demonstrated the weapon to Palpatine, the Emperor was sure that the gun would allow him to destroy the Rebel Alliance once and for all.

HUGE FIREPOWER

Constructed in orbit around Byss, the Galaxy Gun was a device of incredible firepower and accuracy. Commanded from a nearby free-floating firing platform, the fully automated Galaxy Gun used the power of a massive reactor core and a series of electromagnetic accelerator chambers to push a projectile to near-light speeds and over massive distances.

Similar in basic design to an archaic ballistic cannon, the Galaxy Gun comprised three distinct sections. The aft end held the power core, recoil absorption mechanisms and thruster systems, which would reposition the gun to aim it toward whatever distant target was chosen. The



Missile Loading Bay

Command Station

Sublight Thrusters

Targeting Computers

Hyperdrive

Astragation Computers

Observation Deck

Primary Reactor

central section housed the breech, where the weapon's projectiles would be loaded from a munitions carrier, and the forward part of the gun formed the barrel, lined with accelerator rings and force-fields.

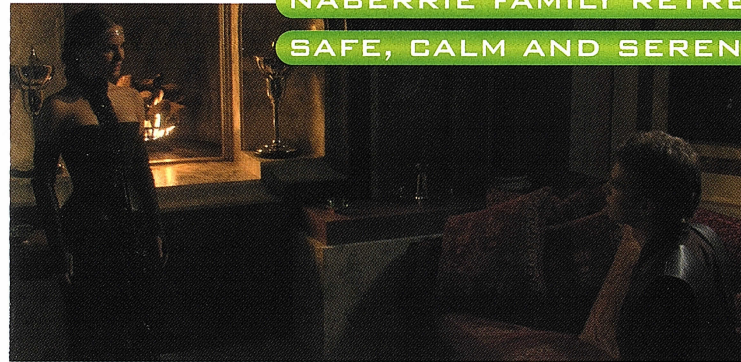
Once aimed, a single projectile would be fired at incredible velocity. At a pre-determined point, the projectile's hyperdrive would activate and speed the shell on its way.

These 'intelligent missiles' were equipped with classified interstellar drives thought to be Class 0.5 or better, which would exit hyperspace as close as possible to the target while maintaining the high sublight speed from firing. The droid brains installed in the warheads could seek out the target co-ordinates with chilling precision. In Palpatine's own words, the Galaxy Gun was a weapon to 'inspire obedience'.

'SEE THAT ISLAND? WE USED TO SWIM THERE EVERY DAY. I LOVE THE WATER. WE USED TO LIE ON THE SAND AND LET THE SUN DRY US...'

VARYKINO THE LAKESIDE RETREAT

THE WATERS AROUND VARYKIND, THE
NABERRIE FAMILY RETREAT, WERE PERFECTLY
SAFE, CALM AND SERENE



A > ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, PADMÉ:

By night, and as the firelight glowed and flickered, the lakeside lodge took on a romantic air. When Padmé and Anakin stayed there, the beauty of the place seemed to draw the couple together.



UNLIKE many large bodies of water on Naboo, the lake sheltering the Naberries' island lodge had no large link to the caverns and underwater passageways that riddled the porous rock of the planet. This meant that opee sea killers, sando aqua monsters and the terrible colo claw fish, as well as any number of other aquatic threats, would never trouble those who swam the surrounding crystal waters.

Anakin and Padmé were taken to the lodge by the caretaker, Paddy Accu. He piloted a long and slim, boat-like speeder that could be set down in the water, if necessary, for more sedate travel. He and Padmé shared a private memory of a young girl who thrilled to the feeling of the spray thrown up by the prow of the speeder, as Paddy expertly brought the speeder low and fast through the water.

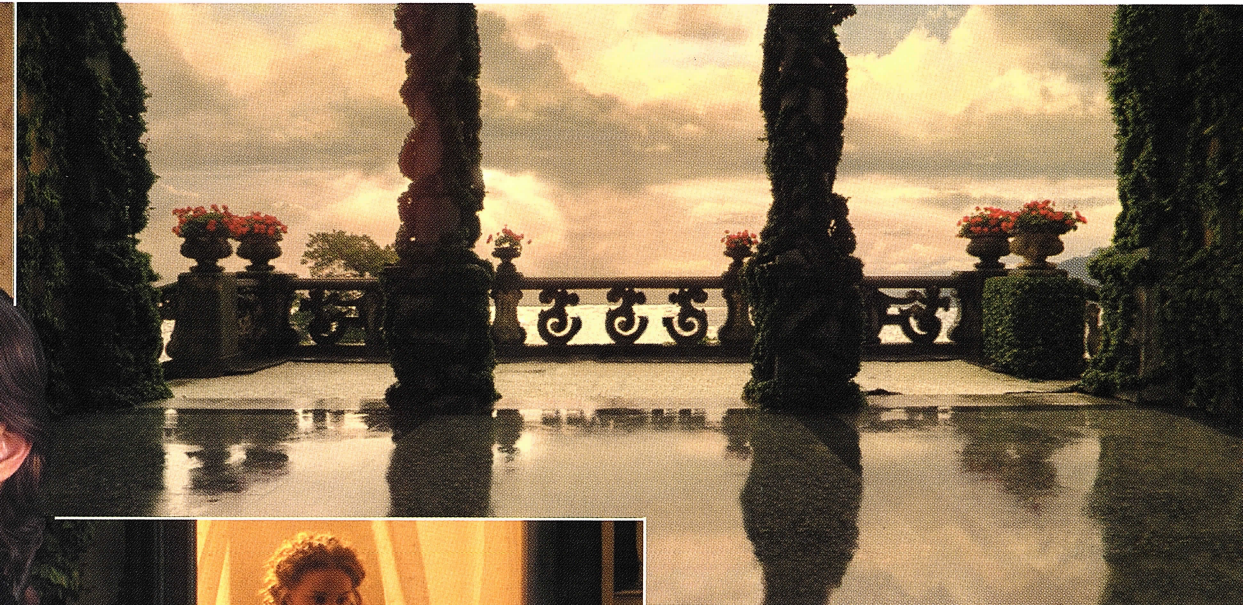
SUMMER DAYS

The lodge, which was big enough to house many of Padmé's Third Level school friends when they came on their summer retreat, was built in the same style as the houses of Theed. Surrounded by trees and terraced gardens sculpted into a steep slope, the beautiful building welcomed visitors via a small dock that led to a wide, partially covered verandah that gave access to many of the larger communal rooms on the lower floor.

The apartments were equally large and airy, with heavy curtains that were drawn back during the day to allow residents to stand in awe of the magnificent views. At night, by the flickering glow of firelight and the dimmed floating plasma globe lighting, the lodge was cosy and warm, and even a little romantic.



< V EVERYTHING HERE IS MAGICAL: On their arrival at the lodge, guests would be taken via a small docking bay onto a large verandah that gave access to the lower floors of the building. When Padmé and Anakin arrived they were escorted by the caretaker, Paddy Accu, who had worked at the lodge since Padmé was a child.

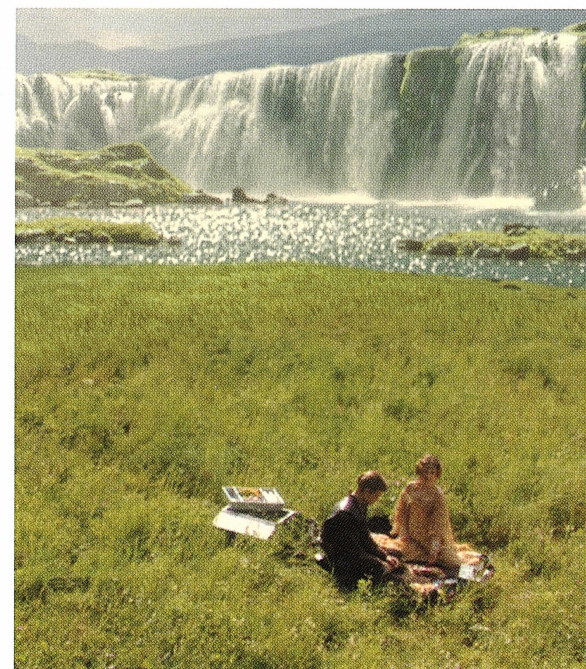


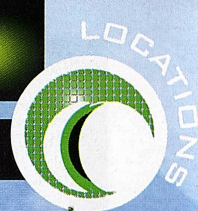
< V NATURAL BEAUTY: The stunning views, both from the balconies of the building and from the nearby hills, made the lakeside lodge a contemplative place. Although she already had many cherished memories of the retreat from her school days, throughout the years to come Padmé would recall fondly the time she spent there with Anakin.

INSPIRING VIEWS

On the other side of the island from the lodge, a wide and undulating meadow stretched from the low hills to the edge of the lake. Filled with wild flowers and lush, sweet-scented grass, the meadow was home to a herd of gentle shaak. From the higher points of the meadow, a visitor could see other islands and lakes beyond Varykino. In the distance, waterfalls tumbled and forests swayed gently in cool breezes.

Even in the terrible years to come, the time she spent with Anakin on the island would remain a cherished memory for Padmé – a beacon of innocence and love in a darkening galaxy.





"I STILL SEE THE BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAINS REFLECTED IN THE WATER. I COULD STARE AT THEM ALL DAY, EVERY DAY."

VARYKINO

THE LAKESIDE RETREAT

WHEN SENATOR AMIDALA AND HER JEDI PROTECTOR, ANAKIN SKYWALKER, SOUGHT REFUGE ON NABOO, THERE WAS ONE PERFECT PLACE PADMÉ HAD IN MIND

THE Naboo Lake Country is a vast region, isolated from every major settlement on the planet. Accessible only from the air or by speeder, the protected area is mountainous and dotted with many lakes and islands. It is a place of solitude, encouraging peace and tranquillity, as well as a gentle meditative contemplation of the wonders of nature.

Some of the islands and lakes have on

them small dwellings, lodges and workshops, though never so many as to be considered a community. One of the islands was owned for years by the Naberrie family. Called Varykino, the island housed a lodge for visitors and the modest home of the caretaker.

Surrounded by mountains, the large lake was dotted with smaller islands than Varykino. During the childhood of Padmé Naberrie, a skilled artisan lived on one of them. A jeweller by trade, the man made glass from the sand found on the beaches of the islands. From this glass, the craftsman fashioned jewellery, vases and other objects. His inspiration was the water that surrounded him, and his glass was said to capture the very essence of the life-giving liquid.

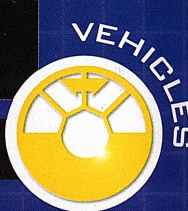
ROMANTIC RETREAT

While Padmé and Anakin were staying on Varykino, the beauty of the surroundings seemed to arouse romantic feelings in them both. To Anakin, the only thing more beautiful than the striking scenery was Senator Amidala herself.

AN IDEAL HIDEAWAY: Set on Varykino, an idyllic island in the centre of the isolated Naboo Lake Country, Padmé's lakeside retreat had been in her family for years. When it became clear that Padmé's life was seriously under threat, it seemed the perfect place for her to seek safety.

THE HOMECOMING: Because the tranquillity of the Naboo lodge contrasted so starkly with her experiences in the political cauldron of Coruscant, Padmé's return to her family's holiday home was an emotional experience.





TAKE MY SPEEDER BIKE!

OWEN LARS' SPEEDER BIKE

22 BBY SPE6

ANAKIN SKYWALKER USED HIS STEPBROTHER'S SPEEDER BIKE TO MAKE A FATEFUL JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF HIS MISSING MOTHER, SHMI

VIGOR: The extreme acceleration the Zephyr-G was capable of meant that the rider had to adopt a low, forward-leaning position just to be able to stay on the bike. Learner riders were often left in a crumpled heap in the dust as their bike shot off at high speed.

> STORAGE PANNIERS: At the rear of the speeder bike, twin panniers straddled the vehicle on an open frame. These compact containers held vital desert survival gear such as a comlink, macrobinoculars, emergency power packs and a blaster pistol. Typically for most Tatooine natives, the panniers also carried a dust mask to protect the rider during sudden sandstorms.

OWEN LARS' speeder bike began life as the plaything of a rich Core World dilettante, before falling into the hands of a Revvien merchant. Owen spotted the vehicle and purchased it at an auction in the Tatooine settlement of Mos Nytram, some distance from the Lars' homestead near Tosche Station. The young settler saw past the now battered speeder's racing lines and realized that the Zephyr-G was durable and hard-wearing. Returning home, Owen modified the bike with a set of panniers, stripped off some of the decorative airfoils and returned it to full flying order.

For Owen Lars, as with many of the younger generation on Tatooine, a personal vehicle was an important possession – both a sign of maturity and a means of independence in a community where travel over great distances was common. Many local youths – lacking any other form of amusement – would modify and customize their speeders and engage in high-speed races through the

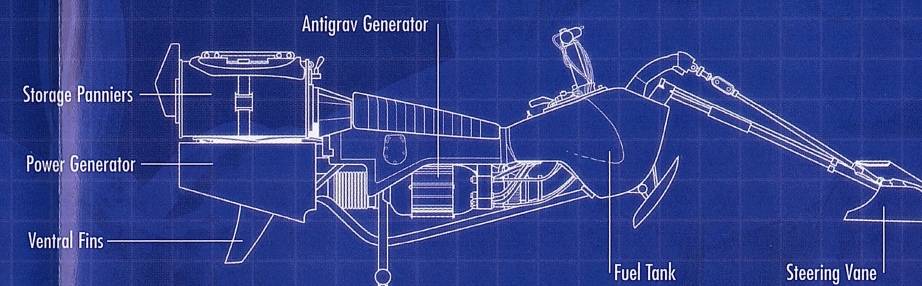
desert canyons. While Owen's speeder bike was largely used for farm business, he could still match the provincial racers in competition. In later years, Owen's nephew Luke Skywalker would follow the same pattern with his weather-beaten SoroSuub XP-34 landspeeder.

TRAILS OF TROUBLE

When the young Jedi Anakin Skywalker arrived on Tatooine in search of his mother, Shmi, Owen offered the use of his speeder bike to his stepbrother. Anakin took the Zephyr-G on a long sweep through the wilds of the Jundland Wastes, seeking out the Tusken Raiders who had captured Shmi several days earlier. Discovering his mother, but too late to save her life, Anakin struck out at the Sand People and destroyed their encampment, massacring the tribe. Riding back to the Lars homestead, the troubled Skywalker brought Shmi's corpse with him for a proper burial.

Owen Lars later married his girlfriend Beru Whitesun and eventually traded in his speeder for a more practical transport, in the form of a three-seater SoroSuub V-35 courier landspeeder.

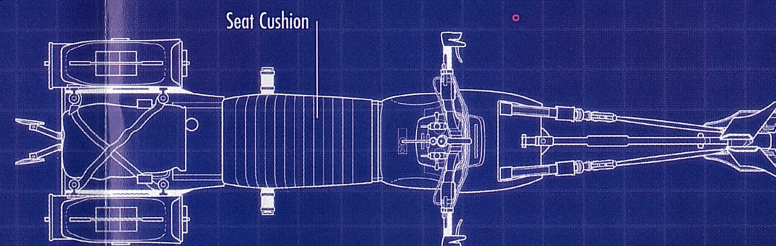
Y CARGO CARRIER: Although designed for just a single rider, the Zephyr-G had ample power for carrying considerable cargoes. Owen's bike was therefore capable of transporting both Anakin Skywalker and the corpse of his mother, Shmi, back to the Lars' moisture farm.



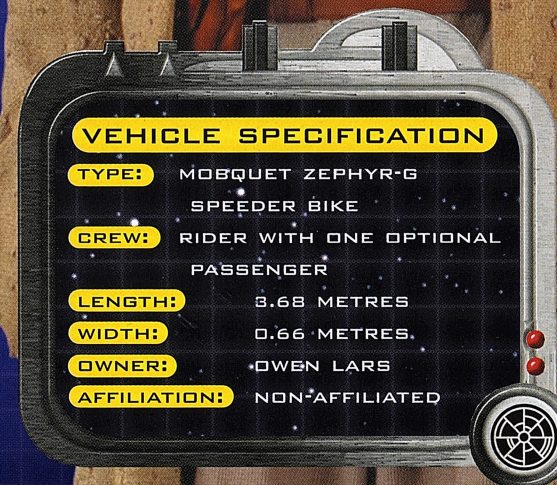
SIDE VIEW

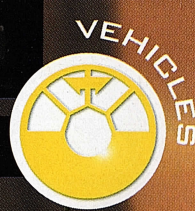


> STEERING VANES: Extending out beyond the prow of the speeder's fuselage, twin vertical steering fins were operated by the rider's pressure on the handlebars. The four-fold vanes turned and cut into the flow of oncoming air to alter the bike's direction at high speed.



TOP VIEW





IT WON'T BE LONG

MOBQUET ZEPHYR-G SPEEDER BIKE

IN THE WILDERNESS OF TATOOINE, SETTLERS AND MOISTURE

FARMERS LIKE YOUNG OWEN LARS FREQUENTLY USED

REPULSORLIFT VEHICLES SUCH AS THE ZEPHYR-G

SPEEDER BIKE TO TRAVERSE THE ARID WASTELANDS

THE Zephyr-G speeder bike was once a common sight on the racing circuits of the Core Worlds, and a popular personal transport for affluent youngsters in the Galactic Republic. Constructed by the renowned Mobquet corporation, the Zephyr-G was over 20 years old by the time one such vehicle came into the possession of moisture farmer Owen Lars. Despite its age, the Zephyr-G performed more than adequately.

Mobquet, a division of the larger TaggeCo, has a reputation for quality repulsorlift vehicles that is well known throughout the galaxy. Their ranges include landspeeders, airspeeders and many speeder bike variants. The Zephyr-G was one of the earliest speeder bike types to be involved in Mobquet's sponsorship of the Core racing leagues, and it led them to successes that the company team maintains to this day. From the design innovations of the Zephyr-G, Mobquet later created the powerful Nebulon-Q racing special swoop and the subsequent Flare-S model swoop.

HANGING ON

At just under four metres long, the Zephyr-G speeder bike was capable of a maximum velocity of 350 kilometres per hour, fielding a substantial 2G acceleration. Without an inertial compensator or deflector array, the rider was forced to rely on sheer strength and stamina to hold on at the higher accelerations. The compact repulsorlift motor was housed in the rear third of the bike's fuselage, with the antigravity array mounted directly beneath the rider's saddle. The boxy repulsor generator used a radioactive core rod with a lifetime of several decades. This could be replaced through a port at the rear.

The antigrav could lift the bike and up to 200 kilograms

(including the weight of the rider) at maximum efficiency. Owen added twin panniers with a capacity of 50 kilograms each. The upper sections of the panniers were fitted with chilled Coolth systems to store food and water supplies, while the lower halves contained diverse gear such as a blaster pistol, multi-tool and a reel for fishing edible duodecipedes from their rock burrows. On a full tank of fuel, the Zephyr-G had a range of 3,000 kilometres. The speeder could carry a single passenger along with its rider, although not comfortably.

The bike used a simplistic turbojet motor for forward propulsion, drawing air through the forward intake grille, mixing in a spray of fuel and igniting it in a controlled expulsion of gaseous thrust. The intake ducts, not designed for use in a desert environment like Tatooine, required frequent cleaning. Owen was partly aided in this by a

resident leebisie-lurker insect that lived in the cowl of the bike – when the speeder was idle, the bug would eat the remains of insects that had been caught in the sand filter.

The speeder's controls were relatively simple to operate, with a basic set of handlebars that could pivot to alter the position of the forward steering vanes. Directional control was also subject to the motion of the rider,

who could use body weight to shift the bike's turn angle. The handlebars also sported flip switches to operate the airscoop vents and shutters and the compressor compartment clutch, as well as controls to adjust the force setting and spread pattern of the repulsorlift field. Other instruments and controls were situated on a panel between the handlebars. A pair of gauges displayed fuel levels, while two stopcocks could be used to regulate the flow. Below these, indicator lights showed the status of the repulsor generator.



A DESERT RANGER: Owen Lars' speeder bike carried enough fuel to propel it thousands of kilometres. This range was essential for the huge distances routinely travelled by Tatooine desert dwellers.

▲ ENGINE: The Zephyr-G used a relatively simple turbojet motor for forward thrust, sucking in air through a dust-screened intake, via an impeller chamber and then through a seven-stage compressor. The densified air was mixed with liquid fuel and injected into a combustion chamber, igniting at extreme temperatures to produce a jet of exhaust gas propellant.



▲ SWIFT BUT NOT SAFE: The Zephyr-G speeder bike offered its rider no protection from the many dangers of the Tatooine wastelands other than its speed. For this reason, riders rarely ventured deep into the desert unarmed or alone.